



State of

Connecticut

By Her Excellency M. Jodi Rell, Governor: an

Official Statement

WHEREAS, Memorial Day was first recognized in Waterloo, New York, on May 5, 1866, when the custom of placing flowers on the graves of soldiers began; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, in honor of the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1971, the last Monday in May was designated as Memorial Day — a day to pay tribute and honor to those who had lost their lives in all American Wars; and

WHEREAS, the men and women of our Armed Forces protect our allies and other citizens of the world, in addition to the American homeland; and

WHEREAS, each passing year, we recognize the many military anniversaries that impact our country, such as January 31, 2010, which marks 55 years since the end of hostilities in Korea and the official end of the Korean War; May 7, 2010, which marks the 35th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War; May 8, 2010, which marks the 65th Anniversary of "Victory in Europe Day" — the end of World War II in Europe; August 18, 2010, which marks the 65th Anniversary of "Victory over Japan Day" — the end of World War II in the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, we should also honor the bravery and courage of our Armed Forces members who have served the United States in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and the ongoing Global War on Terror; and

WHEREAS, as we mark this day of honor for the veterans who have served in our Armed Forces, let us express our sincere and earnest gratitude for their unselfish contributions and sacrifices; now

THEREFORE, I, M. Jodi Rell, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially proclaim May 31, 2010, as

MEMORIAL DAY

in the State of Connecticut. I urge all citizens to honor the sacrifices and courage of our veterans by remembering the price of freedom and liberty in the United States and throughout the world.



M. Jodi Rell
Governor